

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for establishing a healthy bacterial flora in females throughout life, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of at least one *Lactobacillus iners* and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said *Lactobacillus iners* is administered orally or vaginally.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said bacterial flora is gastrointestinal or urogenital flora.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said *Lactobacillus iners* is Y16329.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising a second probiotic organism.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein said second probiotic organism is a *Lactobacillus* selected from the group consisting of *L. rhamnosus*, *L. acidophilus*, *L. fermentum*, *L. casei*, *L. reuteri*, *L. crispatus*, *L. plantarum*, *L. paracasei*, *L. jensenii*, *L. gasseri*, *L. cellobiosis*, *L. brevis*, *L. delbrueckii*, *L. helveticus*, *L. salivarius*, *L. collinoides*, *L. buchneri*, *L. rogosae*, or *L. bifidum*.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein said second probiotic organism is a *Bifidobacterium* selected from the group consisting of *B. bifidum*, *B. breve*, *B. adolescentis*, or *B. longum*.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein a prebiotic is administered in conjunction with the probiotic organism.
8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) A method for maintaining a healthy urogenital flora in females prior to, during and after pregnancy, comprising orally administering at least one *Lactobacillus iners* and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9 further comprising a second probiotic organism.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein said second probiotic organism is a *Lactobacillus* selected from the group consisting of *L. rhamnosus*, *L. acidophilus*, *L. fermentum*, *L. casei*, *L. reuteri*, *L. crispatus*, *L. plantarum*, *L. paracasei*, *L. jensenii*, *L. gasseri*, *L. cellobiosus*, *L. brevis*, *L. delbrueckii*, *L. helveticus*, *L. salivarius*, *L. collinoides*, *L. buchneri*, *L. rogosae*, or *L. bifidum*.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein said second probiotic organism is a *Bifidobacterium* selected from the group consisting of *B. bifidum*, *B. breve*, *B. adolescentis*, or *B. longum*.

13. (Currently amended) A method for restoring healthy urogenital flora in females in need thereof comprising administering at least one *Lactobacillus iners* isolated from said female and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said *Lactobacillus iners* is administered orally or vaginally.

14. (Original) A method for reducing the risk of bacterial vaginosis and bacterial vaginosis pathogens, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of at least one *Lactobacillus iners* and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

15. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a *Lactobacillus iners*, a prebiotic and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The method of any of Claims 7 or ~~15~~15, wherein said prebiotic is ~~insulin~~inulin.

18. (Currently amended) The method of any of Claims 7 or ~~15~~15, wherein said prebiotic is fructo-oligosaccharides or milk.

19. (Currently amended) A method for treatment of an infection in a subject in need by administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition of Claim 15 ~~or 16~~.

20. (New) A method for inhibiting and displacing vaginal pathogens, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of at least one *Lactobacillus iners* and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.